

## Parent/Child of Divorce Education Provider Information

**A. Statutory Authority:** Subsection (4) of the new Parenting Act, Nebraska Revised Statute §43-2928 (2007) states: “The State Court Administrator’s Office shall approve all parenting and child of divorce education courses under the act.” The Parenting Act makes attendance at basic level parent education courses mandatory for all parties to a proceeding under the Parenting Act (Section 43-2928 (1)). Attendance at a second-level parenting education course and a child’s participation in a child of divorce education course are both discretionary by the court. (Subsections (6) and (3) of §43-2928).

The Act sets forth descriptions of content of these courses as follows:

Subsection (5) states: “The basic level parenting education course pursuant to this section shall be designed to educate the parties about the impact of the pending court action upon the child and appropriate application of parenting functions. The course shall include, but not be limited to, information on the developmental stages of children, adjustment of a child to parental separation, the litigation and court process, alternative dispute resolution, conflict management, stress reduction, guidelines for parenting time, visitation, or other access, provisions for safety and transition plans, and information about parents and children affected by child abuse or neglect, domestic intimate partner abuse, and unresolved parental conflict.”

Subsection (6) states: “The second-level parenting education course pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to information about development of provisions for safety and transition plans, the potentially harmful impact of domestic intimate partner abuse and unresolved parental conflict on the child, use of effective communication techniques and protocols, resource and referral information for victim and perpetrator services, batterer intervention programs, and referral s for mental health services, substance abuse services, and other community resources.”

Subsection (3) states: “The court may order a child of parties to a proceeding under the act to attend a child of divorce education course which may include, but is not limited to, information about the adjustment of a child to parental separation, family and emotional well-being, conflict management, problem solving, and resiliency skills.”

### **B. Educational Objectives and Provider Guidelines:**

There are three educational courses contemplated by the new Parenting Act: (1) Basic Level Parenting Education; (2) Second Level Parenting Education; and (3) Children’s Education. For each of the three educational courses, the State Court Administrator has approved (A) statutorily-required educational objectives, along with suggested additional objectives are provided in a table, and (B) provider guidelines for each of the courses. The statutorily-required educational objectives in the table are indicated by a **shaded and bolded statement**.

**C. Approval Process:**

**Please submit the following in the order listed:**

- 1. Provider information sheet:** Please complete this information sheet; include information requested; and submit with the approval packet.
- 2. Table instructions:** Complete the table for each course(s) for which State Court Administrator approval is being requested. Please check off whether your curriculum provides information to meet the statutorily-required learning objectives indicated in the shaded yes/no box. Education providers that do not meet these statutorily required curriculum objectives will not receive approval from the State Court Administrator's Office to provide parent education for the courts. Additional optional educational components are listed in the non-shaded boxes; please also provide checkmarks as to whether your curriculum includes those elements.
- 3. Provider Guidelines Compliance Statement instructions:** Please read the Provider Guidelines and if your program meets the requirements, sign the statement of compliance. Only those providers that meet those guidelines and submit signed compliance statement will receive State Court Administrator approval.
- 4. Three letters of reference:** The Provider Guidelines require three letters of reference as to the performance, proficiency, and quality of the individual facilitator/educator for the educational program.
- 5. Submittal:** Submit this packet to the State Court Administrator so that it is received by 4:30 p.m., Monday, December 10, 2007. The address is:

State Court Administrator  
Room 1213, State Capitol  
P. O. Box 98910  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Any questions should be directed to Debora Brownyard, State Court Administrator's Office, 402-471-2766, [dbrownyard@nsc.state.ne.us](mailto:dbrownyard@nsc.state.ne.us).

## Parenting Act Educational Provider Information Sheet 2007 - 2008

### A. Contact Information:

Name of Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Education course being requested for approval:

\_\_\_\_\_ Basic Level Parenting Education  
\_\_\_\_\_ Second Level Parenting Education  
\_\_\_\_\_ Children of Divorce Education

### C. Facilitators/Educators

Names of Facilitators / Educators	Contact information (if different from Provider)	Relationship to Provider (employee; contractor; other)	Educational background (degrees; years of providing parent or child education)

### D. Attach a list of the 2008 education course schedule: date, time, location, cost, and availability of sliding fee or fee waiver

<b>I. BASIC LEVEL PARENTING</b> <b>A. EDUCATION OBJECTIVES</b> Parents who attend this educational course will:		Curriculum meets the learning objective	
		Yes	No
<b>▪ Learn about the potential impact of the court action (separation/divorce) upon a child</b>			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ To what extent should kids be involved in the court action			
○ Empowering parents			
○ Using a child centered approach			
○ Safety			
<b>▪ Identify ways to appropriately address parenting functions</b>			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ Basic Parenting Education			
○ Parenting functions as outlined in the statute			
<b>▪ Identify the developmental stages of children</b>			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ What is “normal” behavior			
○ Ages and stages and the ranges of these stages			
○ Impact of crisis such as divorce upon the stages of the child’s development			
○ Consideration of the child(ren)’s stage(s) of development when designing the Parenting Plan			
<b>▪ Learn about ways to support the child’s adjustment to parental separation</b>			
<b>▪ Identify the elements of the court process in terms of the Parenting Plan</b>			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ Elements of a parenting plan			
○ Guidelines for parenting time/visitation/or other access			
○ How to create a parenting plan (parental negotiation, attorney negotiation, mediation, specialized alternative dispute resolution (SADR), litigation)			
<b>▪ Learn about alternative dispute resolution; conflict management; stress reduction; appropriate language usage and positive communication</b>			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ Use of “I” messages and alienation)			
○ Interest based negotiation techniques			
<b>▪ Provisions for safety and transition plans</b>			
<b>▪ Information about parents and children affected by child abuse/neglect/domestic intimate partner abuse (DIPA)/unresolved parental conflict</b>			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ Mandatory reporting requirements			
○ Effects of DIPA and child abuse/neglect at different stages of development			
○ On going persistent parental conflict and its impact on children			
○ Definitions/terms: domestic intimate partner abuse vs high conflict			
<b>▪ Include resources and references for those wanting to get more information from web sites and books</b>			

## **I. BASIC LEVEL PARENTING EDUCATION**

### **B. PROVIDER GUIDELINES**

- The statutorily-required educational objectives are being met by the provider
- Safety for participants during the intake process and throughout the educational experience is addressed by:
  - Offering separate classes for either party in a case
  - Screening questions to assess presence of domestic intimate partner abuse
  - Safety measures are in place at the site and time of the class
- Each provider must provide a written proof of completion for each participant
- Providers must submit significant curriculum modifications to the AOC for approval
- The basic level class is at least two (2) hours in length and no more than six (6) hours in length
- Participants have the opportunity to evaluate the course
- Education class facilitator/educator qualifications shall include:
  - Bachelors degree required in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent
  - Masters degree preferred in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent OR equivalent experience in one of the above listed areas
  - Exceptions to the facilitator/educator qualifications will be reviewed on a case by case basis and must receive approval by the State Court Administrator or its designee
  - Three written references for the facilitator/educator regarding performance, proficiency, and quality is required to be submitted to the State Court Administrator as part of the request for approval
  - Knowledge required in the following fields: domestic violence; mediation and specialized ADR under the Nebraska Parenting Act; parenting plans; family dynamics; understanding of mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting requirements; parental conflict and impact upon children

**Statement of Compliance:** As a provider of basic level parent education, I affirm that my organization and the facilitator/educators meet the Provider Guidelines as stated above.

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Name / Title

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Date

<b>II. SECOND LEVEL PARENTING</b> <b>A. EDUCATION OBJECTIVES</b> Parents who attend this educational course will:	<b>Curriculum meets the learning objective</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>▪ Identify the “why” and “how” to develop provisions for safety and transition plans</b>		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ As it applies to the parenting plan		
○ Examples of safe transitions		
○ Parallel parenting		
○ Options if plan is violated		
<b>▪ Identify the potential harmful impact of domestic intimate partner abuse and unresolved parental conflict on the child</b>		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ Definition of terms		
○ Developmental stage specific effects		
○ Resiliency factors		
○ Joint and sole custody behaviors		
○ Purpose of child support and ways to defuse unnecessary conflict		
<b>▪ Learn effective communication techniques and protocols</b>		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ Plan for communicating about the needs of children		
○ Safe communication for all parties with examples		
<b>▪ Become aware of resource and referral information for victim, perpetrator, and batterer services</b>		
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>		
○ Victim services		
○ Perpetrator Services		
○ Batterer Intervention Programs		
○ Referrals for mental health services, substance abuse services, and other community resources		

## II. SECOND LEVEL PARENTING EDUCATION

### B. PROVIDER GUIDELINES

- The statutorily-required objectives are being met by the provider
- Safety for participants during the intake process and throughout the educational experience is addressed by:
  - Requiring separate classes for men and separate classes for women
  - Screening questions to assess presence of domestic intimate partner abuse
  - Safety measures are in place at the site and time of the class
- Participants have the opportunity to evaluate the course.
- A minimum of a two (2) hour and a maximum of a six (6) hour course
- Education Class Facilitator Qualifications shall include:
  - Bachelors degree required in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent
  - Masters degree preferred in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent OR equivalent experience in one of the above listed areas
  - Exceptions to these requirements will be reviewed on a case by case basis and approved by the AOC Parent Education Committee
  - Must submit three written references regarding the facilitator/educator's performance, proficiency, and quality
  - Child welfare background check must be done for those facilitating the child of divorce course
  - Knowledge required in the following fields: domestic violence; mediation and specialized ADR under the Nebraska Parenting Act; parenting plans; family dynamics; understanding of mandatory reporting requirements; parental conflict

**Statement of Compliance:** As a provider of second level parent education, I affirm that my organization and the facilitator/educators meet the Provider Guidelines as stated above.

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Name / Title

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Date

<b><u>III. CHILD OF DIVORCE EDUCATION</u></b>		<b>Curriculum meets the learning objective</b>	
<b><u>A. EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:</u></b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Children who attend this educational course will:			
▪ Learn about ways for children to adjustment to separation			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ Divorce process for kids			
○ How family may change but still be a family			
▪ Learn about how to enhance family and emotional well-being			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ The separation/divorce isn't the child's fault			
○ How to talk about feelings and needs – other communication skills			
▪ Identify ways to manage conflicts with parents and others			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ Staying out of the middle			
○ Staying safe			
○ Recognizing age-appropriate ways to identify domestic intimate partner abuse and impact on the child			
▪ Learn ways to enhance resiliency in the midst of divorce/ separation			
<i>Additional elements under this objective may include:</i>			
○ Share information on resources for kids in the area			

### **III. CHILD OF DIVORCE EDUCATION**

#### **B. PROVIDER GUIDELINES**

- Statutorily-required educational objectives are being met
- Safety for the children is being addressed during the intake process and throughout the educational experience
- Child friendly facility is suggested
- Facilitator is aware of community resources for children experiencing divorce
- Age appropriate content is addressed by curriculum
- Participants have the opportunity to evaluate the course
- Providers are encouraged to arrange child education to run concurrent with parent education
- Minimum of one (1) hour class and maximum of six (6) hour class
- Education class facilitator/educator qualifications shall include:



- Bachelors degree required in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent
- Masters degree preferred in children and family, psychology, sociology, social work related field or equivalent OR equivalent experience in one of the above listed areas
- Exceptions to these requirements will be reviewed on a case by case basis and approved by the AOC Parent Education Committee
- Must submit three written references regarding the facilitator/educator's performance, proficiency, and quality
- Child welfare background check must be done for those facilitating the child of divorce course
- Knowledge required in the following fields: domestic violence; mediation and specialized ADR under the Nebraska Parenting Act; parenting plans; family dynamics; understanding of mandatory reporting requirements; parental conflict

**Statement of Compliance:** As a provider of child of divorce education, I affirm that my organization and the facilitator/educators meet the Provider Guidelines as stated above.

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Name / Title

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Date